

MELITOTA STORE (K-409)
Chestertown, Maryland
(19th)

Melitota Store is one of the few 19th century country stores that are still in operation in Kent. Although the form of the building is similiar to typical central gable residences of the third quarter of the 19th century, it was constructed as a store and storekeeper's residence. The village of Melitota, first called Willis Crossroads, developed in the last half of the nineteenth century to provide necessary services to nearby farmers. In addition to the general store, there was a blacksmith shop, a church, and a school.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Melitota Store

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 298 at Melitota

1st

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Eric Barry

Telephone #: 301-778-1324

STREET & NUMBER

Melitota, Route#4

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: WHG 60

Folio #: 204

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-409

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Melitota Store is a 2½ story central gable building which stands on the northeast corner of Route 298 and Porters Grove-Melitota Road. The main part of the building is three bays wide and two deep; there is a 2½ story rear ell and a one-story shed porch across the front of the structure. The most distinctive feature of the building is the scallop of sawn wooden ornament used to edge the building roof and the gable roofs of the dormers of the ell. In each gable peak is a turned wooden acorn pendant.

There are decorative central gables in the main facade and in the south wall of the wing, creating a feeling of formality symbolic of the functional organization of the building. The main store entrance is in the center of the facade. The entrance of the storekeeper and family, however, is in the south facade of the ell. The store entrance has a pair of double doors each with one beveled-molded panel beneath a large single-pane window. These windows could be covered by a removable wooden panels when the store was closed. The entrance into the wing is more residential with a four-pane transom light and paneled sidelights. The door frame and transom bar have decorative reeding.

Windows have two over two sash; those in the central gable and in the dormers have round-headed upper sash. Frames and sills are plain. Shutters have been removed although the hardware remains. On the first floor of the house are paneled shutters with Greek ogee and bevel moldings.

The building is covered with asbestos siding over narrow weatherboarding. The roof is asphalt shingles. There is an enclosed porch running along the wall of the porch and a flat-gable-roofed addition on the north gable of the store.* Brick chimneys rise within the south and west gables.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (* see page 2.)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-409

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION	
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE	
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE	
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION	
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		___INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Melitota Store is one of the few 19th century country stores that are still in operation. Although the form of the building is similiar to typical residences of the third quarter of the 19th century, it was constructed as a store and storekeeper's residence.

The village of Melitota, first called Willis Crossroads, developed in the last half of the nineteenth century to provide necessary services to nearby farmers. In addition to the general store there was a blacksmith shop and several houses along Route 298 and " L Road."

School No. 4 of Election District #3 stood nearby and about 1900 Mt. Piscah Church (K-406) was erected to serve its local congregation.

The hand painted date of 1887 in the attic of this structure is said to be the date of construction.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-409

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kent County News, October 3, 1979, Section 2, page 12b.

Kent County Land Records, Kent County Court House, Chestertown, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext. 67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

The store room has a pressed tin ceiling. The stair in the residential portion of the building is located behind its main entrance.

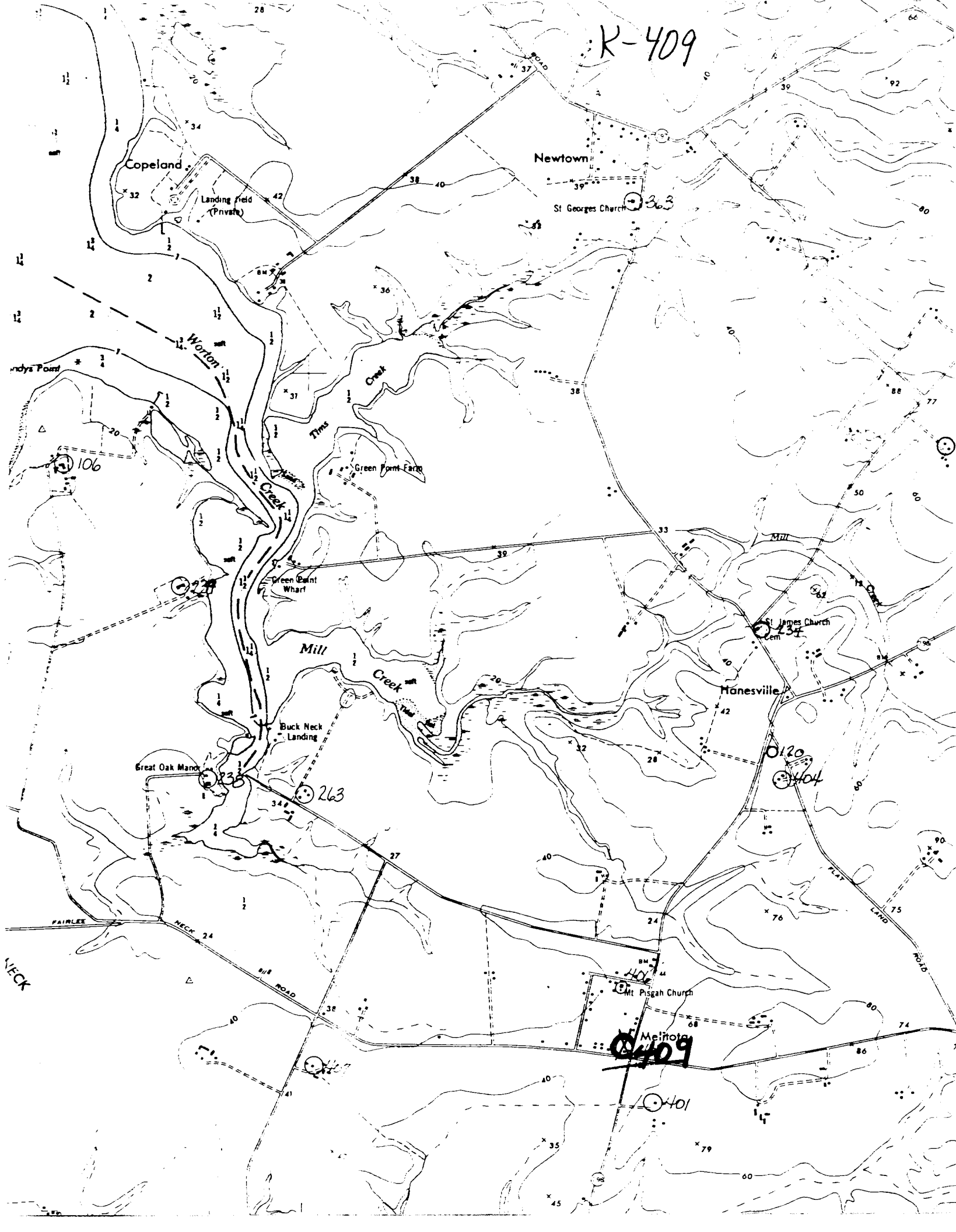
* This addition reputedly served as a "bar" during Prohibition.

NOTE: In spring 1980, the second floor of the building was damaged by fire.

Martinet Map, 1860.

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne
(sic) Counties, Md. (Philadelphia: 27 South Sixth Street, 1877.)

K-409





K-409

Melittota Store

View to Northeast

Fairlee

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

3/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 15 1980